

THE MORNING NEWS

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Your Source for local news in English

Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

Lionfish is no match for The National Control Plan intent on wiping them out



Since the announcement of the 2011 National Control Plan to help eliminate Lionfish from our waters a large group of participants who participated in the March Lionfish Derby, have continued to eliminate Lionfish. Now the results are in from last Derby, and the leaders have been identified.

First place winner is Canicio van der Biezen of the Lifeguards Aruba team with a total of 34.99 points and 31 Lionfish captured at Hadicurari.

In second place is Mike Focke of the Diversity team who brought back 17 Lionfish for a total of 18.995 points. Third place winner is Maikel Hermans with 10 Lionfish and a total of 11.235 points, followed by Frederik Donata in fourth place. Donata brought back 8 Lionfish and earned 8.92 points. The team with the

most points was Lifeguards Aruba, in second place, Diversity, and in third place, was Donata's team.

Lionfish is an invasive species that does not belong to our waters. They are a threat to the marine life in Aruba. They reproduce rapidly and in great numbers; more than 2 million eggs for each female fish per year. This fish has an insatiable appetite. They have been seen eating 20 fish in about 30 seconds and they can eat 24 hours a day. Because the organisms that live in our sea waters are not familiar with the Lionfish, they don't run from them, and the fish that are larger have not been eating them as yet. A combination of these factors causes this invasive Lionfish to dominate and they can eventually eliminate many fish and organisms, causing a serious

imbalance in the ecosystem. What's more, the Lionfish has sharp thorns which can be very painful if you come in contact with them. For this reason it is important that everyone become aware of this fish and of the threat that they pose to our sea water.

It is because of the serious threat that this fish poses, we have appealed to everyone, especially our fishermen and divers to actively help us to eliminate the Lionfish from our waters. In March during the Derby we succeeded in eliminating 68 Lionfish during an 8 hour stretch. The public was given them to prepare for the grill. The March event was a success and we were able to make people more aware of them.

It is believed that Lionfish will continue to proliferate and more people will encounter them in the ocean. It is important that especially our divers help us in getting rid of them.

They need to be eliminated from the areas frequented by people. We want to create areas that are totally free from the threat of Lionfish.

As an incentive the Marine Park Foundation, an NGO, that is protecting marine life and who is intent on creating a marine park as a durable development; is organizing a national campaign. Just like the past Derby the national campaign will focus on the Lionfish and winners will be awarded prizes like you would for any sport.

There will be attractive prizes to be won at the end of the campaign at the end of the year.

For every Lionfish, participants will receive a sticker which will yield a certain amount of points. The size of the catch will add more points. This will be an incentive to continue eliminating Lionfish throughout the rest of the year.

For more information, please visit their FB page at: Aruba Marine Parke Foundation.com/ArubaMarinePark.

The government defends those on the lower income bracket



ORANJESTAD -- The Prime Minister this week informed the island of his government's decision to stand alongside those on the lower income bracket. He indicated that, indeed, the cost of sending children to school is very high and it is for this reason that they have instituted different programs to assist families who have great difficulty meeting these expenses.

The assistance being provided is to help families with the expense of sending their children to school.

According to the Prime Minister, it appears that many families are not aware of these financial aid programs. Many have gone to the extreme of getting financial loans to cover these expenses not knowing that they could have gotten the necessary help from the government. Hence, his reason for taking the time to explain the various programs available to these families.

Colegio Arubano:

Eman explained the Colegio Aruba assistance program for those who have children attending Colegio. Every family with an income under 30 thousand Florins annually are entitled to receive a stipend of Afls.550 for each child attending Colegio

Arubano. This means that if a family has 3 kids attending Colegio they are entitled to receive Afls.1650 in financial assistance.

Families collecting welfare:

The Colegio stipend obviously also applies to those collecting welfare. In addition to the above, families on welfare will receive Afls.120 for each child to cover expenses. A single mother with 4 school age children can apply for Afls.480 to assist with the purchase of clothing for school, shoes and other necessities. In addition to the Afls120 there is an additional Afls120 for each child in a family on welfare to help with paying school fees. All of this is in addition to the extra Afls.200 the government has added to the welfare for each child to help cover expenses, the so-called children's school stipend (schoolkinderentoeslag). The amount of Afls.200 is added to the monthly welfare checks.

This amount is the 25% that the government has added to the welfare payments. These changes are important to help our families on welfare, according to the Prime Minister.

Continued on page 3

Congratulations to all Colombians on their Independence Day



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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

US heartland suffers under killer heat and humidity

CHICAGO, Illinois (AFP) - A searing heatwave brought summer misery to the American heartland and caused more than a dozen deaths as it blanketed up to 17 US states in soaring temperatures and oppressive humidity.

The weather is responsible for at least 13 deaths in the central United States, which has seen a string of days with temperatures topping 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.7 Celsius).

The heat has been coupled with near record humidity -- a miserable combination that forecasters said would persist into next week. The steamy weather is expected to move eastward in the coming days.

NOAA predicted the oppressive heat and humidity "will spread into the eastern US this week."

A National Weather Service spokesman meanwhile told AFP that more than 1,000 heat

records had been broken across the United States in the past month.

Intense high temperatures in Oklahoma are reported to have caused roads in the southern plains state to buckle, while dozens of people required medical treatment, according to the Daily Oklahoman newspaper, which reported that yesterday Oklahoma City saw its 28th day of triple-digit temperatures this year.

FBI arrests 16 in 'Anonymous' hacker crackdown

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US authorities on Tuesday arrested 16 people for cyber crimes including 14 over an online attack on the PayPal website claimed by the hacking group "Anonymous," the Department of Justice said.

The US indictment against the 14 hackers alleges the denial of service (DDoS) attacks on PayPal were "retribution" because the site terminated a donation account for the whistle-blowing group WikiLeaks.

The Paypal attack suspects were arrested in raids in Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Washington DC, Florida, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Mexico and Ohio, US officials said in a statement.

Two suspects were arrested under separate indictments but similar charges in Florida and New Jersey, while British police arrested one suspect and Dutch police four, it said.

Ventaha

Siempre mas barato!

Felicitaciones al pueblo Colombiano!

Llamadas a Colombia

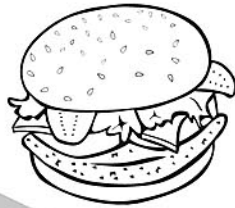
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"Roads and streets have our full attention," says Minister Sievinger!



ORANJESTAD - According to Minister Sievinger, who has the public works infrastructure in his portfolio, "in the context of the renovation of the Aruba product, the government is making various investments."

During last week's tour of the future infrastructure program - Green Corridor - they placed emphasis on roads and streets, and especially the one that runs parallel to the LG Smith Boulevard. This area was for some time one of great concern due to the placing of new drainage tubes. They considered the tour made important, enabling them to do some inspection and ascertain that everything is functioning optimally before they apply the asphalt on the area.

Sievinger reported that contrary to what was customary; just add a new layer of asphalt and move on; they have a new perspective with respect to our roads. They will be adding

green areas and plants alongside our roads which should take place simultaneously with the new road construction. Funds have been allocated for this purpose, says Sievinger.

The tour took the ministers to the first industrial zone of Aruba, which has not seen a layer of asphalt for more than 20 years. This is because in the past the choice was made to put asphalt in front of homes rather than in an industrial zone. The government believes that this is not correct and is of the opinion that both must be well kept.

Once this zone is completed, they are convinced that more companies would want to establish there and those already in the area would want to expand. This obviously would have a positive effect on the labor market.

Regarding the Santa Helena and Hato roads, they are going to be reconstructed to create

roads that are not so wide as they infringe on the security of the barrio. Wider roads, they claim, somehow encourage drivers to speed more.

Caya Ernesto Petronia and de La Sallestraat were also visited by the ministers to inspect the work in progress on these roads. Workers are busy repairing the drain system and the sloop where water travels when it rains. They will also repair the side walks as part of the work being done on these roads. The Minister remarked that..."the sidewalks in front of the government cemetery is in deplorable state and that they should repair those as well. They will be issuing a public tender for this work and for a thorough cleanup of the cemetery. He believes that the work undertaken should cover all areas at the same time.

"We believe in an integral plan," says Sievinger.

Announcement to all students going the Netherlands

ORANJESTAD - The Public Ministry reminds all students who will be continuing their studies in the Netherlands they need a letter of good conduct to register in the city of their destination. The date of departure is quickly approaching, so it is advised to obtain your letter as soon as possible. It takes the Public Ministry 14 working days to process the application for the letter of good conduct.

Students can apply for the letter at the counter of the Public Ministry at Havenstraat 2 only on Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Applicants must submit an Afls. 5 receipt stamps and Afls.30 application fee. The Department of Education has already informed all students about their finances and they were informed by their mentor that



same day of the need for a letter of good conduct, no matter the city in which they will reside.

Do not hesitate to call the Department of Education if you have any questions; students are advised to obtain your Letter of Good Conduct in a timely fashion, not wait until the last moment.

The government defends...

Continued from page 1

Important Assistance:

Eman indicated that the financial assistance is very important. We are convinced that many families are living in difficult situations and who need help. What we have noted, said Eman, is that many families are not aware of these assistance programs. An example of this is the Colegio assistance fund. Much of this fund was unused in the past year, and this,

he said, is not our intention. All these funds have been budgeted for those who need it to help with the financial challenges of sending children to school.

The Prime Minister concluded his remarks by recognizing the efforts of the Minister of Social Affairs, Michelle Winklaar-Hooyboer, for her work in the process.



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Drinks & Snacks included

Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V. sponsors Miss Teen, Noëlia Khalil



Recently, Miss Teen Aruba, Noëlia Khalil, paid a courtesy visit to Caribbean Mercantile Bank. The occasion was to receive a donation from CMB representative Armin Solognier to subsidize her expenses to travel this week to San Salvador representing Aruba in the Miss Teen Americas Pageant. Mr. Solognier expressed in name of management and staff of the Caribbean Mercantile Bank, that Aruba is sure to be well represented and wished Noëlie success in San Salvador. All those interested can follow Noëlie's participation in San Salvador on her support group Facebook page.

Abbie, on vacation from New Hampshire, floats in-the-air



AMAZING ENTERTAINMENT!...Abbie, on vacation from New Hampshire, floats in-the-air, only at the Magic Live! show starring Adam Steinfeld, at the Westin Resort & Casino, in Aruba. See it LIVE! Highly entertaining, we love it!!!! The whole family loved it, grand illusions & comedy for all ages. Showtime is: 9pm nightly, at the Westin, tickets at the theater door

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Aruba Autism Foundation announces several upcoming events



Anna Maria Ramirez of ATC and Natasha Richardson of FAA

Fundacion Autismo Aruba, (FAA) Coordinator Natasha Richardson announced the foundation will be hosting a Puzzle Party for autistic children on Saturday, July 30 at the Aruba Racquet Club. This special afternoon, from 4:30 to 6:00 PM is officially sponsored by Aruba Trading Company and Burger King, which are donating food and beverages for this special afternoon allowing autistic youngsters to socialize and interact with each other. During a press conference at FAA headquarters in

Oranjestad, Anna Maria Ramirez, representing ATC explained that Snapple beverages will be provided for the event as they are a recognized sponsor of Autism awareness efforts in the U.S. Snapple distributed a new flavor, Compassionberry Tea, in coordination with Holly Robinson Peete, mother of an autistic child, who founded with her husband, NFL Quarterback Rodney Peete, the Hollyrod Foundation for families living with Parkinson's Disease and Autism.

Other organizations on board to make it memorable are T.J. Palm, which has donated friendship bracelets for all participants and The Butterfly Farm, which will give out free passes to those attending and their parents. "Team Aruba," which is very active on the NASCAR circuit, will be on hand with star driver Trevor Eman in a dedicated Autism Awareness uniform and one of their race cars to pose for souvenir photos with the children.

The weekend of August 6-7 there will be the inaugural Expo Salud at the Renaissance Convention Center in Oranjestad, and FAA will be one of the more than 80 booths and this groundbreaking and comprehensive health fair. They will host a booth with a wealth of information regarding Autism Spectrum Diseases, and give a 30 minute presentation regarding "Sensory Integration" developed by Dr. Valerie Paradiz PhD, an innovator in the field of autism diagnoses and treatment, and her technique of "Sensory Scan" will be demonstrated.

The second weekend in August will end on Sunday the 10th with the annual Aruba



Way fundraising walk, this time with the theme, "Different, but not Less," with all proceeds from the walk donated to the FAA. Natasha expressed their gratitude to Valero and the Valero Volunteers for selecting the FAA as the beneficiary of this year's event; the funding will assist the foundation in expanding their services for families with autistic members as well as

their educational program for the public.

Those interested in participating in any of the events can contact obtain more details by visiting their website: www.autismoaruba.org or calling Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, 588-1179.

by Rosalie Klein



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Sci-Tech

Scientists find rice 'chalk' gene, eye yield rise

THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) - Scientists expect to soon be able to remove a chalk-like part of rice, dramatically raising global harvests amid rising demand for the staple, an international research outfit said Tuesday.

The International Rice Research Institute announced the breakthrough after a 15-year study on what makes rice chalky, which causes the loss of up to a fourth of grain content in milling, said spokeswoman Sophie Clayton.

The discovery follows a 2008 global crisis that saw the price of rice, the staple of half of the world, rise three-fold and pushing an estimated 100 million people

into poverty.

"Within a few years, it might be possible to breed a chalk-free grain," Clayton told AFP in a telephone interview, citing the research team's assessment.

The chalky part of rice raises the chances of breakage during milling, cutting the amount that can be recovered and downgrading its quality, said the institute's nutrition research chief Melissa Fitzgerald.

"Until now, rice scientists did not know where in the rice genome the genes for chalkiness resided," Fitzgerald said in a statement issued by the Philippine-based institute.

Mutant two-headed snake wows visitors at



UKRAINE -- A snake with two heads, each able to think and eat separately and even steal food from each other, has become a popular attraction at a Ukrainian zoo.

The small albino California Kingsnake, now on show in the Black Sea resort of Yalta is quite a handful, zoo workers told AFP.

The snake's two heads are fiercely independent, are not always in agreement and like to snatch food from each other, said keepers of the private zoo, called Skazka, or Fairy Tale.

"Sometimes one head wants to crawl in one direction and the other head in another direction," zoo director Oleg Zubkov told AFP.

Zoo worker Ruslan Yakovenko added that he tries to feed the snake's two heads separately as they sometimes fight for food.

"The second head may get angry, but both then feel satiation because they only have one stomach," he told AFP.

The private zoo said kingsnakes hunt other reptiles, meaning one of the snake's head could instinctively try to attack and eat the other one.

The three-year-old, two-foot-long (60 centimetre) reptile is on loan from Germany.

"Some visitors enter the zoo feeling horrified and leave delighted."

The snake, believed to be Europe's only two-headed snake, will be on show in Ukraine until September.

Act now on climate, no need to wait: top UN scientist



Rajendra Pachauri

PARIS (AFP) -- The key facts on global warming are already known and leaders should not wait for the next edition of the UN climate panel's report to step up action, the body's top scientist told AFP.

The 4th Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, released in 2007, "is very clear," Rajendra Pachauri said Monday in Paris, ahead of a five-day

meeting of the body in Brest, France.

The fifth multi-volume assessment, which summarizes peer-reviewed science to help policy makers make decisions, is due out in 2013-2014.

"We have enough evidence, enough scientific findings which should convince people that action has to be taken," he said after a roundtable discussion with France's environment minister, Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet.

"Based on observation, we know that there will be more floods, more drought, more heat waves and more extreme precipitation events. These things are happening," Pachauri said.

Pachauri, whose organisation shared the Nobel Peace prize in 2007 with former US vice president Al Gore, announced that a special IPCC

report on the relation of extreme weather events and disasters to climate change, and how to adapt to them, would be released on November 19.

The much anticipated report will review efforts by scientists to connect the dots between well identified long-term climate change trends and short-term weather patterns.

While scientists agree that the risk of more violent storms and flooding will rise over time, it remains difficult to attribute any single weather event to climate change, they say.

Pachauri cautioned that the widely accepted goal of preventing average global temperatures from increasing by more than 2.0 Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to preindustrial times is fast slipping beyond reach.

To achieve that goal in a cost-effective manner "concentration of greenhouse gases [in the atmosphere] must peak not later than 2015," he said.

The IPCC weathered a firestorm of controversy in late 2009 and 2010 when several minor but embarrassing errors were uncovered in the massive 2007 report, leading to initiatives to tighten standards for inclusion and review of material.

Pachauri was re-elected chairman of the IPCC in 2008.

Alfred: The iPhone app that knows what you want before you do

One of the best things about smartphones is their ability to help you get things done. The more useful apps you add to your device, the better the gadget becomes. But a new iPhone app from Clever Sense uses artificial intelligence technology to take service apps to a whole new level of awesome.

Dubbed "Alfred," the app is marketed as a "personal concierge" that can predict what you're looking for, even if you aren't sure yourself. It does so by analyzing the vast amounts of data already available online. And it improves its results by "learning" what you like and don't like from the choices it gives you, similar to the way the Music Genome Project that powers Pandora radio learns

which types of songs you prefer and plays those.

For now, the predictive capabilities of Alfred are limited to four areas: restaurants, bars, nightclubs and coffee shops. But Clever Sense has plans to expand the technology to include a wide variety of other categories, according to a report from Business Insider.



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WHAT: Comedy Magic, Grand Illusion show.

LOCATION: Westin Resort & Casino Aruba

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BOX OFFICE OPENS: 8:00PM

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Health & Living

'Funding gap' imperils science exploits, AIDS forum hears



ROME, Italy (AFP)-Scientists have now provided revolutionary tools to roll back HIV but only a major funding boost, supported especially by emerging giant economies, will determine the outcome, experts say.

Experts at the conference on AIDS medicine here said the money gap imperilled the dazzling potential to curb the 30-year-old pandemic of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

"We are in dangerous times for AIDS funding," said Peter Piot, director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropi-

cal Medicine and ex-head of UNAIDS.

"Science is running much faster now than what we can implement and what we can pay for."

The four-day Rome conference, ending Wednesday, heard the outcome of several landmark trials.

The biggest found that giving early drug therapy to people with HIV reduced the risk of infecting others by a massive 96 percent.

Other trials found that giving antiretrovirals to a non-infected partner reduced the risk by around two-thirds.

These amount to two powerful new choices -- "treatment as prevention" and "pre-exposure prophylaxis" (PrEP) -- to brake transmission of the AIDS virus.

They join male circumcision, a proven measure to protect men, to which a vaginal microbicide, still under test, may one day be added for women.

In 2009, more than 33 million people were living with HIV and 2.6 million people became newly infected.

Making inroads into this tally means stumping up more money swiftly, said Julio Montaner, director of the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS in British Columbia, Canada.

Today, some 6.6 million people in poor countries have grasped the drug lifeline, but another nine million are still in need of treatment.

Reaching them by 2015, in line with the newly stated goal by UN members, will require between \$22 billion and \$24 billion annually.

Bill Gates sets out to reinvent toilets

WASHINGTON (AFP)-The man who reinvented computers and made PCs a household item in most wealthy nations, Microsoft tycoon turned philanthropist Bill Gates, is now focusing his attention on re-casting the WC.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is pledging millions of dollars in grants to reinvent the toilet, its director of water, sanitation and hygiene programs, Frank Rijsberman, told AFP, calling it a "huge issue for Africa."

The aim is to boost health in developing countries by giving the 2.6 billion people who don't have access to a WC a hygienic, safe place to go to the toilet.

Speaking by phone from a pan-African conference on sanitation that opened in the Rwandan capital Kigali Tuesday, Rijsberman said only a fraction of Africans, even in large cities, are "connected to sewers with a flush toilet."

"In cities, people use 'flying toilets,'" he explained.

"They go on a plastic bag and then throw it in the street, which is not only gross but

kids walk around and play, and come into contact with the poop and can develop chronic diarrhea, which kills more children under the age of five than HIV/AIDS and malaria."

Rijsberman mentioned Haiti, where by the end of last month 5,500 people had died from a cholera epidemic he said was caused by "improperly disposed-of waste" from a UN peacekeepers' base.

Giving people in Africa and other parts of the developing world access to toilets could slash the death rate from diarrheal disease by around 40 percent, he said.

"We need to reinvent the toilet. We need to come up with new technology that doesn't put waste into drinking water, doesn't flush it down a very expensive pipe to a waste water treatment plant where we spend lots of money to remove the poop," Rijsberman said.

The foundation says the reinvented toilet must be affordable, costing no more than five US cents a day per person. It also has to be easy to install, use and maintain.

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Road signs will be posted around the island this year yet!



In keeping with their plans for the improvement of our tourism product, Ministers Oduber of Tourism and Sievinger of Infrastructure have a number of plans in the works.

These plans involve aspects related to security as well as

the improvement of our attractions.

During the recent Parliamentary meeting Minister Oduber outlined his plans which involve making Aruba a top world class destination. He used the Carubbian Festival as an example. This he says is becoming a major success and he has instituted the necessary measures to ensure the security of our visitors at this event. He has ordered more members of the Visibility Team to patrol the area where the show is taking place.

According to Oduber, security is an integral part of our marketing.

In response to the inquiry from Parliament concerning road signs, Oduber informed that they have already begun producing sign boards for the island to help guide our

tourists to the different areas around the island. This year they will begin with sign boards for the city center to guide our visitors to the various points of interest, such as the city center, the museum, the beaches, the wharf, etc.

The second part of the

signboards project will be to place sign boards near the beaches to alert our tourists of dangerous matters, such as the tidal currents.

The Minister also made mention of the pilot project designed for "Life Guards."

Together with the Supervi-

sory Board of the TPEF fund they are deliberating about what this project should actually entail, and where to place it. The intention is to make this project one that becomes a permanent matter with continuation.



SKY LOUNGE

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A unique view of Arikok National Park now on display at the visitor's center



Photographer Julio Beaujon (3rd left) with Ewald Bie-mans, Tisa La Sorte and Commandant Hofma

All through 2011 and until March 18, 2012, special events are taking place throughout the island by various public institutions, in celebration of the silver anniversary of Aruba's "Status Aparte," the right to autonomous rule within the

Dutch Kingdom apart from the other 5 islands of the Netherlands Antilles. This year also marks 35 years of Aruba having its own national flag and anthem.

On Monday, July 18, Arikok National Park unveiled



Blackstone Beach

their tribute to the national anthem "Aruba Dushi Terra," a photo exhibit titled "Nos Playanan tan Admira," by Park Ranger Julio Beaujon, the facility's long time "official" photographer.

Julio's love for his work and the park he protects is evident in his photography, which reveals the details of flora, fauna and landscapes of the Arikok environment often overlooked by the casual visitor. This particular exhibit illustrates the line from the national anthem "our admirable beaches," as he has captured the various coves within the park from the sea and the sky, offering a rarely seen perspective to these oft-visited tourist sites.

Aruba's Minister of Infrastructure, Environment and Integration, Oslim "Benny" Sevinger was present to officially open the exhibit and admire the photographs which now adorn the veranda of the Arikok Park Visitor's Center located just near the entrance in San Fuego.

Park Director Ambrosio Curiel and Marketing Manager Jimmy Meijer joined Minister Sevinger in applauding Julio's dedication in bringing forth to the public the various aspects and nuances of the preserve; this exhibit in celebration of this landmark year inaugurates what will become a continuing



Conchi



part of the visitor's center. The present show will be on display for the next 6 months, to be replaced by a new collection.

Julio expressed his gratitude to the Aruba Coastguard and Police Department for pro-

viding the means for him to photograph the north coast from the sea and air, "without them this exhibit would not be possible," he commented, and to the Department of Culture for funding the display.

By Rosalie Klein

Breakfast
 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

EGG DISHES
 *2 eggs sunny side up
 with ham & cheese
 *Scrambled
 with ham, cheese, onions,
 green pepper, tomato, mushroom
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ACROSS

1. Elevations (abbr.)
5. Draw on glass
9. Rescue worker (abbr.)
12. Ooze
13. Trick
14. Kanga's baby
15. "Up" transport (3 wds.)
18. What a bouncer checks

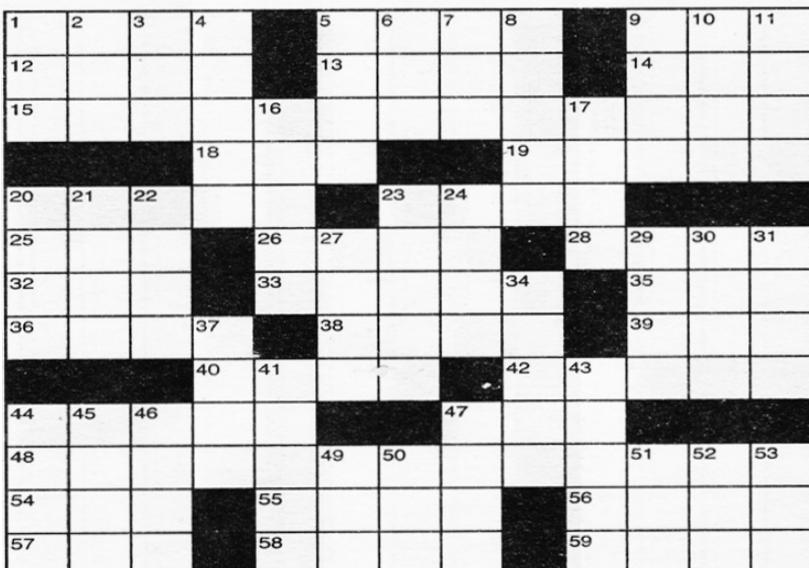
19. Non-current
20. ___ geometry
23. Chance
25. Cut off
26. Almost closed
28. Caesar's "and others" (2 wds.)
32. French article
33. Devoted
35. Pie ___ mode (2 wds.)
36. Swampy ground
38. First class (2 wds.)
39. Dawson or Cariou
40. Actor Sean
42. Roast host
44. Escargot
47. ___ Lanka

48. Quality of showing no pity
54. Decorative vase
55. Keen enjoyment
56. Chop up
57. Sock end
58. Stuns
59. Small cut

DOWN

1. Cigar leaving
2. ___ G. Carroll
3. Hanoi holiday
4. Toledo's land
5. Is wrong
6. Soaker's spot
7. R.E. Lee's gp.
8. Aids
9. Love god

10. Barnyard calls
11. Dial ___
16. Just what's needed
17. Great Salt ___
20. Jack Horner's find
21. Anderson of "Nurses"
22. Mimicker
23. Fabric
24. Mideastern country
27. Lunden or Crawford
29. Mennen product
30. To shelter
31. Highway section
34. Wolfish looks
37. Narrative poem
41. Miss Doolittle
43. "Great ___ think alike"
44. Soot
45. Cruel emperor
46. "Rule Britannia" composer
47. Fast jets (abbr.)
49. Writer Wallace
50. WNW's opp.
51. Munich "one"
52. Chem., e.g.
53. Between Aug. and Oct.



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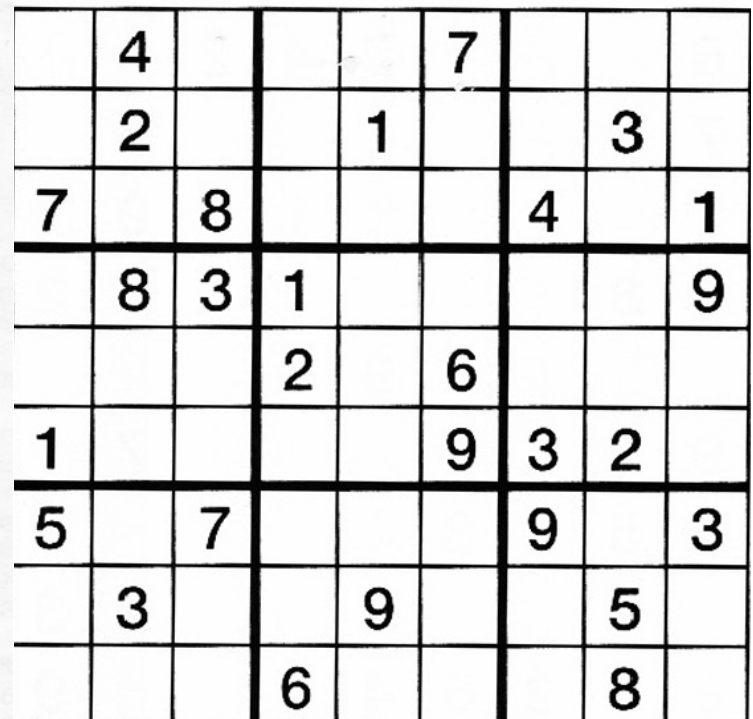
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SOLUTION

4	8	2	6	9	3	1	5	7
9	5	2	1	6	4	7	8	3
6	1	6	8	2	7	4	9	5
5	2	6	4	7	8	9	1	3
8	2	1	9	5	3	6	7	4
6	7	9	3	4	1	8	5	2
1	6	7	2	9	5	8	3	4
2	6	8	7	1	9	5	2	3
2	9	5	2	8	6	1	4	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Finance

Dollars eases on euro; gold comes off record

NEW YORK. (AFP) - The dollar fell slightly against the euro and gold came off its record Tuesday as safe-haven flight eased slightly on hopes of eurozone and US debt deals.

At 2100 GMT the euro bought \$1.4150, compared to \$1.4117 a day earlier.

The euro and dollar both gained on the safe-haven Swiss franc, which had hit new highs in recent days.

The euro traded to 1.1665 francs (1.1543), while the dollar bought 0.8240 francs (0.8174).

Gold meanwhile edged up to a new record, \$1,610.10 per

ounce, before profit-taking set in and it dropped to below \$1,590.

The calmer trade came despite mixed signals on the path of the European Union's talks on a new rescue plan for Greece.

But traders were evidently encouraged by suggestions of more flexibility by the European Central Bank, as well as, on the other side of the Atlantic, President Barack Obama's statement that there was strong progress towards a long-term deal on reducing the US deficit.

Also helping were good

corporate results that boosted US and Europe stock markets.

"Risk appetites are firmer and the US dollar is weaker," said Vassili Serebriakov of Wells Fargo.

"There have been some renewed hopes for a Greek aid deal being reached at the EU leaders' summit on Thursday, while hints of a more flexible ECB stance on the issue of sovereign bond collateral are also helping to ease market fears."

The dollar picked up to 79.21 yen (79.02 yen) while the British pound rose to \$1.6132 (\$1.6055).

Bank of America reports huge loss

CHARLOTTE, N. Carolina (AFP) - Bank of America said on Tuesday that it lost \$9.1 billion in the second quarter, due to its record-breaking settlement over subprime mortgage claims stemming from the financial crisis.

Its earnings amounted to a

swing into a loss of 90 cents a share, in line with analysts' forecasts after the bank set aside \$14 billion last month to compensate angry investors for their losses on dodgy mortgage-backed securities.

Without the mortgage settlement and other exceptional items, the bank would have posted a profit of \$3.7 billion, or 33 cents per share, Bank of America said in its quarterly earnings report.

The bank's revenues in the April-June period were \$13.2 billion, a drop of 55 percent from the same period last year. Analysts had expected revenues of \$12.3 billion.

Bank of America, the largest bank in the United States in terms of deposits, announced a settlement last month aimed at resolving issues from its disastrous 2008 acquisition of mortgage lender Countrywide Financial.

Bank of America's proposed \$8.5 billion payout to 22 big private investment groups, which still needs court approval, is the largest such settlement by a financial institution stemming from the crisis.

Along with that sum, Bank of America also set aside \$5.5 billion for pending liabilities to other investors not included in the settlement.

Bank of America's shares had slumped 1.7 percent on the New York Stock Exchange shortly before 1500 GMT on Tuesday.

In contrast, shares of its number-two rival Wells Fargo rallied 4.0 percent after the San Francisco-based bank reported that its net income surged 30 percent to \$3.73 billion in the second quarter.

Wells Fargo's earnings per share were 70 cents, just beating analysts' consensus expectations of 69 cents.

Weighed down by a sluggish economy, its revenues were \$20.39 billion, around 5 percent less than the second quarter of 2010 but still a modest uptick from first-quarter 2011 revenues of \$20.33 billion.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

A	R	T	E	H	I	P	P	R	A	M
H	O	A	X	O	D	E	I	O	N	E
S	I	L	T	O	A	L	O	T	S	
		E	R	O	S	C	H	O	K	E
D	O	N	A	T	E	H	I	T		
E	M	T	T	A	M	D	E	B	I	T
M	E	E	T	T	A	P	D	O	R	A
I	N	D	E	X	P	U	T	N	O	N
		N	Y	C	G	R	E	E	N	S
A	B	L	A	Z	E	N	E	L	L	
N	E	I	N	D	U	O	S	E	T	S
D	E	N	T	E	N	S	I	S	I	T
I	N	K	S	D	O	E	E	S	P	Y



LONDON (AFP) - A screen grab image taken in London on July 19, 2011, shows Wendi Deng, (3rd L) wife of News Corporation Chief Rupert Murdoch, raising her arm towards a protestor (Far L) who threw a foam pie at Rupert Murdoch as he gave evidence to a Parliamentary Select Committee on the phone hacking scandal. News Corp chief Rupert Murdoch told British lawmakers "this is the most humble day of my life" at the start of a parliamentary hearing Tuesday over the News of the World phone hacking scandal.

IMF tells Europe to take action now

WASHINGTON. (AFP) - The International Monetary Fund on Tuesday called on Europe to take action "urgently" to prevent a eurozone meltdown, mainly France and Germany.

The global crisis lender said Europe's leaders needed to act quickly to avoid a contagion that would damage not only the region but the global economy.

Debating any longer would only heighten the dangers of financial contagion, it warned in a new report on the economic situation of the 17-country euro area.

While not dictating any specific paths for shoring up the weak eurozone periphery countries Greece, Ireland and Portugal -- and to a lesser extent Italy and Spain, the area's third- and fourth-biggest economies -- the IMF urged Europe's leaders to expand the size and operational scope of the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) to intervene more effectively, suggesting this would go a long way to helping stabilize the region.

And it said the European

Union needed to better define a private-sector role in the rescue of the periphery, and in strengthening Europe's weak banks, calling continued official bailout funding unsustainable.

The IMF released its report two days before EU leaders are slated to meet in Brussels for a summit on a second rescue of financially hobbled Greece, with agreement on a path forward on Thursday still uncertain.

The European Union, the European Central Bank, and the region's leaders and bankers have been divided on how best to stop Greece's march toward defaulting on tens of billions of euros of sovereign debt, despite already being under a 110 billion euro (\$155.8 billion) EU-IMF bailout.

One key issue is the role of the commercial banks which hold Greek debt -- if they will take a partial loss to give Athens breathing room, or restructure the debt to lengthen its tenure, or even swap the debt for eurozone bonds possibly from the EFSF.

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Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest



Gold Coast entrance

Managers of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, report that sales are picking up nicely as the global economy begins to recover and those with a bit of disposal income are looking to invest in a sure thing. Gold Coast Directing Manager Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners are barely using the villas or town homes they purchase, but taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community; in this area, the value of properties has only increased over time. It is minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy run Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project; the scope and amenities. We talked to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who dreamed of their

own home in Aruba will eventually be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional pools decks, one of which has been open for a year, the other will be ready for the holidays 2010. They expect the clubhouse to be ready for the community with a workout room and spectacular facilities by the end of 2011. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the management association's rental service,



There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, making it easy for some owners to earn their mortgage payments or others to see an immediate return on their investment.

The design of the structures is open, airy and spacious, fully deploying the island environment, with the finest quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options for clients, so buyers can individualize their

homes. An elegant and chic standard package is available, or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast managers have inaugurated a number of in-house services and are now negotiating with Interval International to provide a huge international pool for investors to tap for renters either short or long term. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination will also be available. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour

security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, babysitting and catering services are also available for community members as well as airport pick-up and drop-off and pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can all be arranged through their home management department.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban restaurant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

Owner Varella Innocencia confesses she opened her

into local cuisine. "We will definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right."

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true test of local cuisine, "Keshi Yena"- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin



Keshi yena with plantains and vegetables

restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture

of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the Harbor at the end of the Weststraat, The Queen's is open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. They also have daily specials, aside from an extensive menu; made from whatever is in season.

We noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner is where the locals like to eat!

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Spanish star Bardem urges UN treaty for actors' rights



Spanish actor Javier Bardem gives a press conference at the World Intellectual Property Organization in Geneva.

GENEVA, Switzerland (AFP)- Spanish film star Javier Bardem on Tuesday urged governments to hammer out a treaty that would protect the livelihoods of performers by safeguarding their works from piracy.

"More than 90 percent of actors have serious problems to pay rent, bills, and even to eat," he told reporters before speaking to dignitaries negotiating a treaty to protect audiovisual performances.

"Remuneration of actors is crucial. Not for people like me, but for those who have a problem living from what they are doing," said Bardem, who is married to actress Penelope Cruz with whom he

has a son.

Bardem, who won an Academy Award for his portrayal of a remorseless serial killer in "No Country for Old Men", had been invited along with other cinematic figures to the World Intellectual Property Organisation's copyright negotiations.

WIPO chief Francis Gurry told AFP that "the rights of audiovisual performers had not received adequate protection at the international level... unlike authors or musical performers."

"If you watch a film, the screenwriter is protected, the musician is protected, the composer is protected. But not the performer," he said.

Iain Smith, the producer of "Seven Years in Tibet", said that the treaty could also prove to be a boon for developing countries with a strong film industry, like India or Nigeria.

"Countries like Nigeria have some very interesting filmmakers who work with modest resources," he told AFP.

"Protecting intellectual property there might not seem very important now, but it will be in the long term.

Bardem, who said he had "never" downloaded a pirated movie or song, said that although he understood the economic motives behind piracy, it was still a form of theft.

"It is like going to a shop, getting those products for free, and running.

"And the mentality of the people is that to do piracy is fine, because we will harm the actor who has a private jet.

"But they are wrong. They are harming the people behind these people," he said.

The UN intellectual property agency's general assembly will decide in September whether to go forward with a draft treaty, which, according to Gurry, could be adopted as early as next year.

Francis Ford Coppola to star at France film fest



file photo of Ford Copolla at the 2011 Oscar's

DEAUVILLE, France (AFP)- film maker Francis Ford Coppola will make a star ap-

pearance at a festival of American film in Deauville, northwestern France, in September, organisers said on Tuesday.

The director of classics including "The Godfather" and "Apocalypse Now", now 72, will be the guest of honour and will take part in a public discussion at the festival in September, festival director Bruno Barde told reporters.

"He is a very humble man who loves cinema but does not want to give lessons in cinema,"

Barde said, unveiling to reporters the programme of the festival which runs from

September 2 to 11.

Also appearing at the festival will be the US actress and film maker Shirley MacLaine, 77, star of Billy Wilder's classic 1960 movie "The Apartment", and another American Hollywood star, Danny Glover.

This year's festival, the 37th edition of a major date in film-loving France's cinematic calendar, will also focus on the work of the classic US director Blake Edwards, maker of the Pink Panther movies.

The festival jury, which will assess the 12 films in competition, will be headed by Olivier Assayas, the French film maker hailed for his long film about Carlos the Jackal, released last year.



SYDNEY, Australia (AFP) : Aboriginal dance troupe Bangarra performs the koki dance from their new contemporary work 'Belong' at the Sydney Opera House (SOH) on July 19, 2011. Rekindling indigenous culture, 'Belong' features two performances: 'ID' by Stephen page and 'About' by Elma Kris.





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Contador stuns Schleck as Hushovd wins stage 16



Stage winner Thor Hushovd of Norway celebrates on the podium of the 16th stage of the Tour de France cycling race

GAP (AFP) - Tour de France champion Alberto Contador fired a warning shot on Tuesday by partially closing his deficit to key rivals for the yellow jersey after a stunning attack on the 16th stage of the race.

Thor Hushovd of Garmin-Cervelo outsprinted Norwegian compatriot Edvald Boasson Hagen to take the win after a rainy 162.5km ride

over undulating terrain from Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux.

Frenchman Thomas Voeckler retained the race leader's yellow jersey, but the Europcar rider, like the Schleck brothers Andy and Frank, lost time to both Contador and Australian Cadel Evans in a thrilling finale.

Labelled a 'transition' stage before three consecu-

tive days of climbing in the Alps, Contador seized the day on the 9km climb to the Col de Manse outside Gap, whose summit was 11 km from the finish.

The Spaniard accelerated once to test the Schleck brothers, saw they were not following and then accelerated several more times to create the gap.

Evans, a two-time runner-up, and Spaniard Samuel Sanchez were the only riders able to follow and soon they crested the summit with a 20-sec lead on the Schlecks and Voeckler's group.

The trio, racing nearly five minutes behind a leading group of three which included Hushovd, pushed on during the rain-hit descent, with time trial specialist Evans pulling away in the final kilometres.

Evans came over the finish 4min 23sec behind Hushovd, with Contador and Sanchez crossing barely three seconds later.

Andy Schleck finished at 5:32, in the process losing 1:09 to Evans and 1:06 to Contador. Evans, one of the day's biggest winners, moved one place up to second overall at 1:45 behind Voeckler.

Frank Schleck dropped to third at 1:49 with younger brother Andy at 3:03. Contador is now only 3:42 behind Voeckler.

All work for synchro's 'Phelps in a skirt' - Focus



Russia's Natalia Ishchenko (R) and Svetlana Romashina (L) pose with their gold medals

SHANGHAI (AFP) - Dubbed "Phelps in a skirt", synchronised swimming icon Natalia Ishchenko is the undisputed queen of her sport but the Russian says her grace under pressure is all down to simple hard work.

Ishchenko's win in Monday's duet technical routine gave the 25-year-old her 13th gold of a record-breaking world championships career, and she is not finished yet

with more events to come in Shanghai.

On Sunday, the glamorous blonde stole the show at Shanghai's Oriental Sports Centre as she earned a near-perfect score of 98.300 in the solo technical routine, claiming her third straight world title in the event.

The superlative victory saw Ishchenko surpass compatriot Anastasia Davydova to become the world aquatics championships' most successful synchronised swimmer since competition began nearly four decades ago in 1973.

"I have no secret to maintain the top position. The secret is our coach plus hard work," said Ishchenko.

Ishchenko, who started the sport at the tender age of five, won the first world championships golds of her stellar career in 2005 in Montreal, in the team event and the free routine combination.

She followed that with four golds in Melbourne two years later, including in the solo and team technical rou-

tines.

In 2009 she won five golds, including one as a reserve in the duet technical routine, and shows no sign of letting her grip on the sport slip at the London Olympics.

Ishchenko also helped Russia win the team gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Monday's victory in the duet technical routine, where Ishchenko took gold with partner Svetlana Romashina, meant Russia remain unbeaten in the event for the fifth consecutive edition of the worlds.

But despite her domination, Ishchenko brushed aside any thoughts that she was getting used to success.

"Every medal for us is significant and in our heart we all have an ideal image and we always try to get better results and get closer to the ideal as possible," she said.

Ishchenko's success shows that the Russians remain the team to beat in synchro despite the strength of the Spanish and the fast-rising Chinese.



Taj Mahal

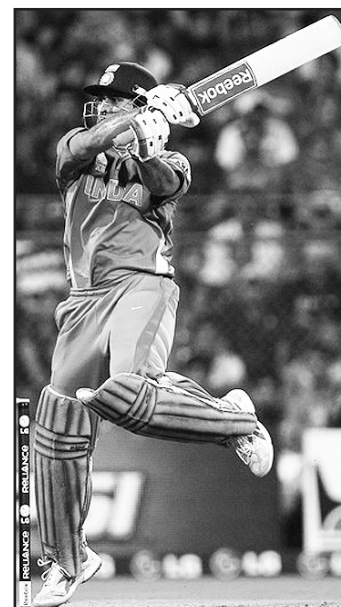
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Dhoni's WCup bat fetches \$160,500: report



Mahendra Singh Dhoni

NEW DELHI (AFP) - The cricket bat used by India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni to hit a match-winning six in the World Cup final has fetched a staggering \$160,500 at an

auction, media reported Tuesday.

The auction was held in London on Monday to raise funds for his charitable foundation that was launched in India last year, the Press Trust of India news agency said.

The Indian captain, who scored an unbeaten 79-ball 91 with the bat in his team's six-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the final in Mumbai in April, sealed the match when he smashed seamer Nuwan Kulasekara for six.

Dhoni said that the charity will work on "improving children's accessibility to cricket by building a sports academy where children will be able to develop their talents across a whole range of disciplines."

He is currently leading the side in England for a four-Test series starting at Lord's on Thursday.

Argentina to keep Batista despite Copa flop

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Argentina said on Monday they would keep Sergio Batista on as coach despite their early Copa America exit.

The 14-times champions lost a quarter-final to Uruguay, now going for a 15th title, on a penalty shootout.

But Humberto Grondona, sub-director of team affairs at the Argentine Football Asso-

ciation and the son of AFA president Julio Grondona, said the organisation would keep faith in the man who only officially replaced Diego Maradona six months ago.

There will be no "brusque changes - we never thought of going down that road," said Humberto Grondona in an interview with Radio La Red.

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Team Aruba continues consistency in program



MARTIN, Michigan-- Trevor Eman and Team Aruba looked more than capable at the ADRL Summer Nationals. Consistency was their key as one of the few teams to make it down the track every run of qualifying (4.181, 4.152, 4.158, 4.166). The Aruba.com Mustang ended up 12th with the 4.152 pass, a very respectable position in the 25 car field that vied for the 16 spots.

Unfortunately for Team Aruba, a red light ended their raceday early. Eman is known for his great reaction times, but this time his great light was on the wrong side of the tree, turning on a .006 red. The car remained consistent with a 4.185 to Elijah Morton's .025 green and

4.173.

"Despite the red light, I was real happy with our performance," told Eman. "With the exception of our first round of qualifying, our ET's where perhaps third or fourth fastest during the rounds. So, we sure are in the ballpark to win a race soon, just need to try and stay away from the redlights."

With their consistency, the team was up for the Jon Kaase Tuning Challenge. They didn't lock it in this time, but are certainly on the right track.

"As one of the few that made it down the track every run during qualifying, we were even a contender for the Jon Kaase Tuning Challenge," Eman continued. "Knock on wood, we haven't

shaken the tires in a long time; hopefully we can keep it that way. Our new Jerry Haas Mustang is just working great for us. Most of Jerry Haas' guys from the shop are at the races, and they have all been very helpful whenever we needed it. I'm very appreciative to them for that.

"Everybody on the team is doing a great job, and our routine in the pits is showing itself with the performance on the track. We can just look forward to Virginia now and try even harder for our first victory."

There's no doubt that a victory is soon to come for Team Aruba, perhaps even at the ADRL U.S. Drags just a month away.

"I want to thank all of our fans who support us and follow us online. Hopefully we can give them a win soon!"

Stay in the loop with Team Aruba at www.facebook.com/teamarubaracing and on Twitter @TeamArubaRacing.

Find race results, team updates, videos and photos. Also leave your comments to cheer on Team Aruba and find out where they'll be next.

Two sides getting closer

NEW YORK (AFP) - Owners and players representatives met Monday as talks are expected to heat up this week in an attempt to end the four-month NFL lockout.

The main hurdles to get past in order to have a signed collective bargaining agreement include the antitrust lawsuit and the television damages case, the American media reported on Monday.

They met for over eight hours and the groups will be back at the bargaining table Tuesday morning in some of the strongest indications yet that a deal may be nearing.

One key issue for the players is the \$320 million that the owners didn't have to pay in benefits because the 2010

season was an uncapped year.

The players are also seeking a rule on how often the franchise tag can be used and benefits for retired players is a concern of both.

The club owners are expected to meet Thursday in Atlanta and they could vote on a new deal at that time if an agreement can be reached by Wednesday.

Billionaire team owners and multi-millionaire players have been unable to decide how to divide \$9.3 billion in annual revenues, sparking the first NFL shutdown since 1987.

The two sides still have plenty of time to get a deal signed before the NFL season begins in September.

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Small fry no longer, Venezuela dream on



Cesar Farias

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Uruguay may be the favourites as the last big-name side left standing at a Copa America full of shocks - but there is little doubt which team is the people's favourite among the final four.

Venezuela meet Paraguay in today's second semi-final.

The Venezuelans, hailing from the Caribbean end of Latin America, should be fish out of water at an event taking place deep in Argentina's chilly winter.

Yet they have warmed the hearts of tens of thousands of fans.

The exception is the city of Mendoza, which stands to lose an estimated four million dollars in tourist receipts after 30,000 Chileans flooded over the border for the quarter-final only to see a different shade of red in the Vinotinto, who beat them 2-1.

"Now we have come so far we have to go one step further and reach the final," said defender Oswaldo Vizcarrondo, whose goal against the Chileans helped to bring a famous victory and a first-ever semi, a step further than his side had managed on home soil four years ago.

"It's been a great experience and we are improving all the time," he told re-

porters.

Venezuela coach Cesar Farias will have to rejig things a little against a Paraguayan side against whom they thrillingly came back from 3-1 down to draw in the group with creative midfielder Tomas Rincon

suspended following his red card in the quarters.

But Farias is undaunted by that, insisting: "We have great faith. We have the chance to play the final if we can get through this one and we don't feel inferior to anyone."

"We are unbeaten and have scored the most goals."

Even after the opening group draw with Brazil, Farias had indicated the team would target a run to the final.

Such has been Farias' influence that Spanish daily El Mundo on Monday dubbed the 38-year-old "The Venezuelan Mourinho."

Farias fell out with keeper Renny Vega after dropping the latter some time ago but the pair are now united in their desire to conjure the sporting earthquake that a Venezuelan Copa win would comprise.

"He's key for us - he works very well," says Vega.

Much could depend on how the underdogs compensate for the loss of the impressive Rincon with Luis Seijas and Giacomo Di Giorgi the mooted alternatives.

Paraguay, whose second and last title to date came in 1979, will see an omen in their favour in that both times they won international foot-

ball's oldest event they put out Brazil, as they did here in the quarters.

Coach Gerardo Martino knows his side should be

favoured to reach Sunday's trophy match in Buenos Aires but has wasted no time in eulogising Wednesday's rivals.

"Venezuela will be a very

tough opponent. They have come on so much in recent years," Martino told a news conference in Buenos Aires.

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